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[ARCHIVED] Alameda County Variance Approved to Allow Outdoor Dining to Resume



ALAMEDA COUNTY COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY PRESS RELEASE

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA ★ CALIFORNIA
Office of Emergency Services
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Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2020

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Variance Approved: Outdoor Dining and Outdoor Operations of Oakland Zoo Now Allowed Alameda County Remains on State Monitoring List: Indoor Worship Services and Indoor Malls are Required to Close

Additional reopening continues to be paused as case rates and hospitalizations remain high

ALAMEDA COUNTY – Alameda County's attestation to become a variance county was approved today by the State, which means:

1. The **Oakland Zoo** can open for outdoor activities with appropriate safety measures in place
2. **Outdoor dining** can resume. Please note that face coverings are required at ALL times and may only be removed during the physical act of eating or drinking.

Not all State websites may reflect this update at this moment, approved plan is posted at the [CDPH variance](#) site.

Additionally, today is Alameda County's third day on the [State's County Monitoring List](#), which means that we are subject to restrictions per [State Health Officer Orders issued on July 13th](#). The State requires that beginning today:

1. **Places of worship** can hold outdoor services only and will not be able to hold indoor services
2. **Indoor malls** will be required to close. This does not impact other indoor retail at this time.

While Alameda County remains on California's Monitoring List because [local case rates remain higher than 100 per 100,000 per day](#), we will remain paused in our reopening plans and will continue to align with the [State's orders for Monitoring List counties](#).

We are updating our local orders and communication materials to reflect these changes and reduce confusion.

It is critical we all do our part to save lives and slow the spread of COVID-19. Residents and those who work in Alameda County can help by staying home as much as possible and especially when you're sick, wearing a face covering whenever you leave home, maintaining at least 6 feet of distance from anyone outside of your household and washing or sanitizing your hands frequently.

Employers can help stop the spread of COVID-19 by supporting employees' decisions to stay home, and ensuring that they follow the state and local guidelines in implementing [Site-Specific Protection Plans](#). A negative test result or doctor's note is not required to return to work if an employee is ordered to isolate or quarantine under the County's [blanket Isolation/Quarantine Orders](#). Local employers must demonstrate their commitment to keeping their staff, customers, and communities safe by complying with their Site-Specific Protection Plan.

Our city partners have a role to play in enforcement and ensuring local businesses and residents are educated on health and safety practices and compliance with both local and state orders.

For more information about the State orders, visit <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/>.

For more information about Alameda County, visit <http://acphd.org/2019-ncov.aspx>

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Alameda County
Health Care Services Agency



Alameda County's attestation to become a variance county was approved by the State today, July 15. This means that outdoor dining can now resume. While the overall data for Alameda County has not become more favorable, the approval of the variance will allow activities that the Health Officer determines are lower risk for our community. Please note that face coverings are required at ALL times and may only be removed during the physical act of eating or drinking.

Local Orders on the Alameda County Public Health website are being updated to reduce confusion. Alameda County has issued a [press release](#) announcing this news. The City appreciates your patience during these challenging times, and empathize with our small businesses having to pivot operations quickly. The City will continue communicating and sharing updates from the County and State as soon as we become aware.
[Additional Info...](#)